

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

October 10, 2013
Maricopa Association of Governments; Ironwood Room;
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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| *ADOT: Nicole Patrick | *Paradise Valley: Jeremy Knapp |
| Avondale: Rogene Hill | Peoria: Maher Hazine |
| #Buckeye: Andrea Marquez | Phoenix: Ken Kessler for Maria Hyatt |
| Chandler: Dan Cook for RJ Zeder | *Queen Creek: Chris Anaradian |
| El Mirage: Bryce Christo for Sue McDermott | Scottsdale: John Kelley for |
| Gilbert: Leslie Hart-Bubke | Madeline Clemann, Chair |
| Glendale: Matthew Dudley for Cathy Colbath | Surprise: David Kohlbeck |
| Goodyear: Cato Esquivel | #Tempe: Robert Yabes |
| *Maricopa: David Maestas | #Tolleson: Chris Hagen |
| Maricopa County DOT: Mitch Wagner | Valley Metro: Wulf Grote |
| Mesa: Jodi Sorrell | Youngtown: Grant Anderson |

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy. + - Attended by Videoconference
- Attended by Audioconference

OTHERS PRESENT

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|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Eileen Yazzie, MAG | Kini Knudson, Phoenix |
| Marc Pearsall, MAG | Ted Mariscal, Phoenix |
| Alice Chen, MAG | Martin Lucero, Surprise |
| Jorge Luna, MAG | Dick McKinnley, Surprise |
| | Jim Schumann, The CK Group |
| | Jennifer Pyne, URS |

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Vice Chair Maher Hazine. He welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. He noted that three members were joining the meeting by teleconference; Andrea Marquez of Buckeye, Robert Yabes of Tempe and Chris Hagan of Tolleson. Vice Chair Hazine asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft September 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Hazine asked if there were any comments or corrections to the Draft September 12, 2013 meeting minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Mr. Dudley moved to approve the motion, Mr. Kohlbeck seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Hazine then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

3. Call to the Audience

Vice Chair Hazine stated that he had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Program Manager's Report

Vice Chair Hazine invited Eileen Yazzie of MAG to brief the Committee with the Transit Program Manager's Report. Ms. Yazzie noted that she had a few items to present. She explained that MAG was featuring a new, competitive grant application for Transportation Alternatives projects. The TA applications and notice letter was recently sent out to Transit Committee and the other MAG Committees in September with applications due on October 22nd. She noted that there are goals and objectives guiding the selection process for safety, connectivity, access and safe routes to school programs, with TC Chair Madeline Clemann at the helm of the evaluation committee. She also noted that the Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study 'guiding principles' for moving transit forward beyond the completed study have been sent out and evaluated by the Northwest Valley partner agencies. She noted that those guiding principles would continue to evolve as those communities and their leadership work towards a transit solution in the coming years. Ms. Yazzie completed her report.

Vice Chair Hazine thanked Ms. Yazzie for her report and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

5. Designing Transit Accessible Communities - Final Report

Vice Chair Hazine invited Ms. Alice Chen of MAG to present on the Designing Transit Accessible Communities - Final Report agenda item.

Ms. Chen thanked the committee and noted that the item was on the agenda for possible action. She began by referring to the presentation with a featured quote from the American Public Transit Association. 'Transit Accessibility is... the segment of an individual trip that occurs between an origin or destination point and the transit system.'

She noted that the Designing Transit Accessible Communities study was the result of an ongoing partnership with stakeholders ranging from facilities staff, transportation planners, human services coordinators, and special needs coordinators. Numerous workshops were held in order to solicit input and dialogue between the stakeholders. She also mentioned that the study featured Case Study Locations for projects from throughout the MAG Region, as well as a development of a helpful bus

stop categories chart. She noted that public surveys played a large part of the study and that a priorities list was created - In order of preference, the respondents selected the following amenities as most important for transit: 1. Shade Trees (68%), 2. Bus Schedule Information (64%), 3. Streetlights (60%), 4. Landscaping (55%), 5. Bicycle Lanes (52%), 6. Bicycle Parking (51%), 7. Curb Extensions (50%), 8. Medians (43%), 9. Decorative Pavement (41%), and 10. Art (40%).

Ms. Chen also noted that the Transit Accessibility Toolkit was a major achievement of the DTAC study. It reflected issues, areas of importance, improvement considerations, planning/policy guidance and cost. Additional elements reviewed in the presentation included lighting, information signing, wayfinding, seating, shelter, landscape shading, adjacent land use, bike access, bike parking and sidewalks. She also mentioned that there was a new Implementation Checklist for projects and that the Draft Final Report was available for review on the MAG website. Ms. Chen then completed her report. Vice Chair Hazine thanked Ms. Chen for her report and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Grote commented that the studies' main challenge for transit customers was from a technical perspective, or how to improve transit amenities in a built environment. He noted that the goal was to figure out how to maximize passenger amenities in a limited real estate environment, which may be challenging. He added that one option within a municipalities' purview was to ensure that new developments provide adequate land for new transit footprints. However, in older built-environments, this was already a limited factor, especially when bus and rail facilities conflict with existing driveways. Ms. Chen replied that there were already City of Tempe requirements in place as an example. She noted that on page 85, the number one recommendation was to get the parties together to discuss the issue prior to any decision or action. Ms. Yazzie and Mr. Kelley also made brief comments.

Vice Chair Hazine asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Ken Kessler commented and made a request. He stated that in regards to the final report, there was concern that inadequate time had elapsed to review the document since it was approximately six months since the last review at Transit Committee. He requested a delay for additional review prior to acceptance. Vice Chair Hazine and Ms. Chen replied that it was a good idea to take additional time for the committee's input prior to action.

Vice Chair Hazine again thanked Ms. Chen and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

6.- Regional Transit Framework Study (2010) Re-Cap

Vice Chair Hazine requested that Ms. Yazzie present an update to the Regional Transit Framework Study (2010) Re-Cap agenda item.

Ms. Yazzie noted that she would be presenting a re-cap to the Regional Transit Framework Study(RTFS), which was completed by MAG in 2009. She mentioned that the question had been asked about a possible revision to the RTFS, she pointed to a number of contributing factors of why there was simply no need to update the RTFS after four years; specifically the stagnant economy during the Great Recession, the census revealed that population growth was flat, and that the RTP had lost funding and much of the transit services envisioned have been cut back or postponed.

Further, the MAG Region's 2030 estimate was now our 2035 due to the great recession. Essentially very little had changed within the Valley to warrant a complete revision or update of the RTFS.

She briefly explained the deficiencies identified within the study and well as transit scenarios 1, 2, and 3. She noted that she would go into further detail on the scenarios later in her presentation. She noted that the RTFS featured extensive public and agency involvement, public outreach activities, focus groups, surveys of non-riders, public meetings, a webinar and on-line surveys.

Ms. Yazzie also explained that from the respondents, there were noted barriers to transit use. Specifically, when it came to planning trips, major impediments were substantial wait times, limited hours of operation, lack of frequency, and inadequate routes. She noted that some motivations amongst transit demographics. Current riders wanted more buses, more routes, greater frequency, and longer service hours. Non-riders were unlikely to consider public transit as a viable alternative until the system could offer them a benefit in relation to convenience and time.

She added that within the Peer Regions Review, 2006 NTD Transit Supply & Demand, Phoenix and Dallas ranked lowest among large cities. When reviewing 2006 operating investments, operating expense per capita, the national average was \$129.87; with the MAG Region - \$71.10. She noted that within the evaluation of needs, a review of regional scenario maps and a review of regional travel demand occurred. Areas reviewed were: Regional Travel Demand - Trends From 2006 to 2019; Regional Travel Demand - Trends From 2019 to 2030; and Regional Subarea Transit Deficiencies.

She then explained the concepts for a regional transit system as pertaining to the RTFS: problem definition, deficiencies, transit demand exceeding capacity, limited service expansion, capital deficiencies, safe & convenient services, project eligibility for discretionary funds, unserved developed areas/unserved growth areas, more broadly dispersed employment, congested roadways, new transit investments require funding, economic competitiveness, development and analysis of study alternatives, and scenario development of initial analysis corridors and corridor prioritization. She noted that within Transit Modeling Assumptions, there were service types(modes), transit scenarios, and characteristics that helped define the three levels of transit service: I: Basic Mobility, II: Enhanced Mobility, and III: Transit Choice.

Ms. Yazzie then catalogued the products generated from the RTFS. Four project fact sheets; a Peer Regions Evaluation; a non-rider Survey, an on-line survey, a focus group report and six working papers; Working Paper #1: Analysis of Transit Travel Demand; Working Paper #2: Transit Performance Indicators and Service Standards; Working Paper #3: Existing Transit Services and Deficiencies; Working Paper #4: Problem Definition; Working Paper #5: Analysis of Planned Improvements, Future Deficiencies, and Additional Service Options; Working Paper #6: Cost analysis for Transit Capital, Operating, Maintenance and Modernization as well as an Executive Summary and Final Report.

Vice Chair Hazine thanked Ms. Yazzie for her report and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Ms. Sorrell inquired how the study would work with other local and regional transit studies. Ms. Yazzie replied that the RTFS was designed to coordinate with local cities' plans, with the framework assumed as regional baseline service assumption. She noted that the RTP assured that the local,

regional transit system had reasonable assumption of service levels. Vice Chair Hazine added that the cities transit plans were from General Plans. Ms. Yazzie also explained that the framework included the cities own local transit plans and regional services, specifically, eleven deficiencies were analyzed.

Mr. Dudley asked if the region could look at updating the RTFS again in the coming years, or would a potential Prop 500 document help initiate some of the recommendations. Ms. Yazzie replied that the spirit and purpose of the RTFS was to create a document with transit recommendations to help the MAG Region make decisions. She added that the MAG Region now had two major studies crafted over the past 5 years, (RTFS and STLUIS) that had compiled and prioritized needs and efficiencies for transit on a regional and local level. She said that it was decision making time, so at the direction of the Regional Council, the region should act using these reports to help craft the NexGen RTP or Prop 500. She said that one substantial benefit was these two studies had flexible tool so that we may modify them to best fit the needs of each part of the region.

Mr. Grote added that he believed it was time for us to move forward. Pertaining to the NexGen RTP, he said we may use these many great studies to build the new plan that will become Prop 500. He added that we may also test what the individual communities were willing to do locally in order to secure regional cohesiveness. He closed by saying the region should begin to meld the local and regional recommendations together into a regionwide plan. Mr. Cook concurred and said that the MAG Region should use the RTFS and the STLUIS to begin to mesh the studies together into a plan that the entire region can get behind. This would enable the City of Chandler to coordinate or transit needs with MAG, which they had begun to do.

Mr. Kessler inquired if would the regional plans included the SuperGrid routes as identified in Prop 400. Ms. Yazzie replied that in Scenario 2, the SuperGrid Routes would become part of the regional services. She added that she was willing to host a work session on the RTFS if need be as it would permit a discussion of how we applied the regional standards, and efficiencies and overlay them as we decide on a new plan. She reiterated that there was no need to perform a new RTFS Update, but rather take our current RTFS and incorporate all of the new city general plans – transit plans.

Ms. Hill and Mr Dudley asked how soon must the region make these decisions. Ms. Yazzie replied right away as the discussions for the NexGen RTP had already begun at the TPC, where Eric Anderson of MAG has begun showcasing scenarios for funding the Prop 500 plan. Further, MAG would be working with a polling firm to decide on a new tax extension or stand alone tax would stand with public sentiment. Mr. Hazine requested that the questioning within the poll focus on multi-modalism. Ms. Yazzie concluded by stating that in 1985, there was no funding for transit. In 2004 there was 33% for transit. For Prop 500 she wondered aloud how much the region would want to allocate. Mr. Kessler stated that the MAG Region had come a long way.

Vice Chair Hazine asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Mr. Yabes moved to recommend approval, Mr. Kessler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Hazine thanked Ms. Yazzie for her report and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, Vice Chair Hazine moved onto the next item on the agenda.

7. Regional Light Rail Project Report Cards

Vice Chair Hazine requested that Ms. Yazzie continue and present an update to the Regional Light Rail Project Report Cards agenda item.

Ms. Yazzie explained that the purpose of the Valley Metro Light Rail Report Card was to create a simple go-to guide that explained each individual Valley Metro project. She then introduced Mr. Wulf Grote from Valley Metro.

Mr. Grote explained that each Transit Corridors Project Report Card featured one page for each rail and bus corridor project that was in planning, design or construction. The information was available on Valley Metro web site, and noted that the report cards featured an array of helpful items, such as a project description; project status; financial schedule; and color route map.

He then explained progress on the future High Capacity Transit Corridors, specifically Scottsdale/Rural Roads LINK. He noted initial recommendations, such as limited stop service, with all trips between University/Rural and Camelback at 12 minute frequency (matches LRT). He noted the primary travel demand area, with peak period trips also serve North Scottsdale, by serving commute trips and the new park-and-ride. He explained that it would be weekday only service, but that Route 72 would continue with modifications. He noted that the next steps were to complete the operating plan and define capital improvements.

Mr. Grote concluded that each Transit Corridors Project Report Card would be updated monthly or when needed. Vice Chair Hazine again thanked Ms. Yazzie and Mr. Grote for their presentation and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Vice Chair Hazine asked the members of the Committee if there were any issues that they would like added as future agenda items.

Ms. Rogene Hill noted that she had previously requested a debrief on the Tiger Grants and what the region could do better in the future to secure funding. Mr Kessler explained that in his conversation with the FTA, the federal government was planning to have a debriefing of their own between DOT staff and Phoenix staff on how the MAG Region could make the applications more competitive. However, in lieu of the current government shutdown, that debriefing was postponed until late October. Mr. Kessler requested an extension so that he could report back to the Transit Committee at a later date on what the FTA recommended.

Vice Chair Hazine asked the members of the Committee if there were any additional issues that they would like added as future agenda items. Hearing no further comments, Vice Chair Hazine proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

9. Next Meeting Date

Vice Chair Hazine thanked those present and he announced that the next meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the MAG Office, Ironwood Room.

There being no further business, Vice Chair Hazine adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.